US History Unit 4: Revolutionary War

Vocabulary

Minutemen – American colonial militia members who were said to be ready in a *minute’s notice*

Mercenaries – hired *foreign soldiers*

Hessians – *German soldiers* paid by the British to fight against the colonists

Deserter – a soldier who *leaves without permission*

Loyalist/Tory – those who chose to stay with *Britain*

Bayonets – long steel *knives attached* to the ends of soldiers muskets

Privateer – a *private ship* that’s given permission to attack its enemies

Guerilla Warfare – a *hit and run style of warfare* that was considered unethical by the British

Militia - *civilian soldiers* of the Revolution

Ratify – to give official *approval* of a document

Gentleman’s Warfare – the *European style of warfare* where men lined up, shoulder to shoulder, and fought

Patriot/Whig – those who supported the war for *independence*

Diplomat – a *negotiator* between countries

Continental Army – the *army* created by the 2nd Continental Congress to defend the American soldiers

Declaration of Independence – the *document* that formally announced the colonies’ break from Great Britain

The Continental Congress – September 1774

* 55 delegates including George Washington, met in *Philadelphia*
* Drafted a statement of grievances

Lexington and Concord – April 19, 1775

* 1st battles of the Revolutionary War
* “*The shot heard ‘round the world*”

2nd Continental Congress

* New delegates included Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock
* *John Hancock* was chosen to be *President of the 2nd Continental Congress*
* Common Sense – written by *Thomas Paine*

Declaration of Independence

* Written by *Thomas Jefferson*
* Resolution for independence was voted and approved on *July 4, 1776*

Battle of Trenton

* *Christmas night 1776*
* Patriots were *victorious*

Gaining Allies

* Victory at Saratoga was a major turning point
* *Marquis de Lafayette* – a French nobleman who offered his services to General Washington and became his trusted aide
* *Friedrich von Steuben* helped turn Continental Army into a disciplined army

Winter at Valley Forge

* 1777-1778
* Washington’s men set up at Valley Forge and endured a *long, cold winter with terrible suffering*

War in the West

* Henry Hamilton was known as the “*Hairbuyer*”
  + He paid Native Americans for settlers’ scalps

John Paul Jones

* American Naval officer who was famous for attacking British ports
* One of the few American’s to have success versus the English Navy
* He is famous for having said, “*I have not yet begun to fight*.”

The Battle of Yorktown

* British realized that the war would be too expensive to continue
* This *battle unofficially brought an end to the war*

*Molly Pitcher*

* Followed her husband into battle and supplied water to the troops